

**Region 1**  
**Hot Topics:**

**Region 1 Identifies Mismanagement Hancock County Planning Commission Brownfields Grant**

- On April 18, a Region 1 Brownfields Project Officer identified some potentially serious concerns of mismanagement of grant funds pertaining to Hancock County Planning Commission's (HCPC) Brownfields assessment grant. Working with the regional Grants office, legal counsel, and the Region 1 Inspector General's office, a formal notification letter was issued on May 1 to Sheri Walsh, Acting Executive Director at HCPC, to provide documentation supporting all financial drawdowns. On May 15, the Brownfields PO and Inspector General attended a meeting with the Chairman and Treasurer of the HCPC board. On May 16, Sheri Walsh, the acting director of the HCPC, was arrested by local police for allegedly stealing money from the Ellsworth, Maine non-profit organization. Approximately \$100,000 of the stolen funds are believed to be from HCPC's EPA brownfields grant.

**Massachusetts and New Hampshire Delegations Attend Merrimack Watershed Story Map Webinar**

- On May 22, Region 1 hosted a webinar for the MA and NH Congressional delegation to demonstrate a Merrimack Watershed Story Map. The Region developed the Story Map to provide a mapping resource and collaboration platform for watershed stakeholders. It allows users to customize layers of existing data to help visualize the watershed's environmental and public health data. The Story Map will be available to the public through an updated website for the Merrimack Watershed that will be published by the end of the month. In June, a webinar will be hosted for all the watershed stakeholders.

**Region 1 Participates in Massachusetts and Vermont SERC Meetings and Issues GDC Pilot Letters**

- On May 14-17, Region 1 provided training and technical assistance at two State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) meetings in MA and VT reaching 80 individuals. In addition, under an integrated General Duty Clause (GDC) compliance pilot, Region 1 issued 13 information request letters to facilities with ammonia refrigeration systems to determine whether they have completed process hazard reviews for their systems. If no such review has been conducted, a facility will be given an opportunity to comply under an expedited settlement program.

### **Region 1 Meets with Municipalities Over Upcoming Permits**

- On May 9, Region1 staff met with representatives from the Cities of Lowell and Haverhill, and the Greater Lawrence Sanitary District. The purpose of the meeting was to listen to concerns related to upcoming permits. The Region anticipates releasing the permits as draft within the next few weeks.

### **Region 1 Funds Maine Pre-Remedial Cooperative Agreement/Dry Cleaner Initiative**

- The Pre-remedial program worked with Maine DEP in development of Maine's Pre-Remedial Cooperative Agreement for the FY20 grant cycle to include an estimated \$150,000 in additional funds to support a Dry Cleaner initiative. This work will allow ME DEP to fund a contractor to evaluate 10 former dry cleaner sites.

### **Region 1 Hosts New England Capacity Development and Operator Certification Meeting**

- On May 21, Regional Drinking Water staff hosted the annual New England Capacity Development and Operator Certification meeting in Westboro, MA for federal and state program coordinators responsible for building capacity at small systems. The agenda included a presentation from Alaska on their approach to technical, managerial, and financial checklists, a discussion of program integration and successful grant funding.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

- No reports submitted.

**Region 2**  
**Hot Topics:**

**Newark, NJ Drinking Water Sample Analysis Update**

- Drinking water samples from six homes in Newark, NJ, three from the Wanaque Reservoir side and three from the Pequannock side, have now been submitted to Region 2 for analysis. The results of the two of the Wanaque samples completed to date found no lead levels exceeding the action level 15 ppb.

**Limetree Bay Terminal and Limetree Bay Refining, USVI**

- A draft PAL Permit is being revised to incorporate comments from ORC. On 5/8 APB received the modeling protocol. On 5/16 APB provided comments to Limetree's consultant. Region 2 awaits headquarters' decision on the applicability issue concerning MACT Subpart Y. Consent decree negotiation continues between DOJ, Limetree and VIDPNR.

**National Water Quality Trading Work Group**

- On 5/20 the work group held a call and reviewed the latest draft of the "Baselines in Water Quality Trading" paper being prepared for Anna Wildeman. It's expected Anna will bring up the concepts in the paper at the Water Division Directors Meeting on 5/21-23. OGC will provide a legal analysis as a separate document at a later date. The paper contains six options in three groups: defining the baseline, flexibilities in applying the baseline and alternate market-based approaches. The challenge of "reasonable assurance" continues to be a difficult issue. A call with Anna is scheduled for 5/31, where the discussion is likely to include talk about potential next steps.

**Court Enters Consent Decree with NYC for Hillview Reservoir, Yonkers, NY**

- On 5/15 the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York entered the consent decree (CD) resolving Region 2's Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) enforcement litigation against New York City and the NYCDEP for violations of the Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule (LT2 Rule) at the 90-acre Hillview Reservoir in Yonkers, NY. The CD requires NYC to pay a \$1 million civil penalty to the U.S. and a \$250,000 civil penalty to NYS to resolve NYC's liability for stipulated penalties under a 2008 state administrative order. NYC draws water for eight million customers from upstate reservoirs, adds chlorine and treats it with ultraviolet light before sending the water to the uncovered Hillview Reservoir, where the water is vulnerable to recontamination.

**Annual Indian Nation Leaders Meeting, Syracuse, NY**

- On 5/20-23 RA Lopez led Region 2's 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting of Indian Nations in Syracuse, NY. RA Lopez headlined individual work sessions with each of Region 2's eight federally-recognized nations and tribes.

### **Consent Decree with Gloucester County (NJ) Utilities Authority**

- On 5/22 DOJ lodged a consent decree (CD) between EPA and the Gloucester County Utilities Authority (GCUA) regarding the municipal sewage sludge incineration (SSI) facility GCUA operated in West Deptford, NJ. The CD resolves federal claims included in a Notice of Violation Region 2 issued to GCUA on 4/12/17 for mercury limit, stack testing and reporting violations under 40 C.F.R. Part 62, Subpart LLL, in addition to some state-only claims. Under the CD, GCUA will pay a \$132,500 penalty divided evenly between EPA and NJ and will complete a state-only SEP to install four electric vehicle charging stations (spending no less than \$50,000). GCUA will use a digester to treat its sewage sludge, that GCUA represents will not have any air emissions.

### **Long Island Sound, NY, Great White Shark**

- On 5/21 OCEARCH, an ocean research group, said one of its tagged great white sharks has been located swimming off Greenwich, CT in the Long Island Sound. The shark measured 9' 8" long and its weight is estimated to be 533 lbs., according to OCEARCH. This is the first confirmed presence of a great white shark in Long Island Sound.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

#### **RA Lopez at Gowanus Canal Superfund Site, Brooklyn, NY, CAG Meeting and Town Hall**

- On 5/28 RA Lopez and team will participate in a meeting on the Gowanus Canal CAG. On 5/29 RA Lopez will join Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez as her guest at her Gowanus Canal Town Hall meeting.

#### **RA Lopez at Annual Roundtable Discussion on Navy-Grumman Plume, Bethpage, NY**

- On 5/29 RA Lopez and team will participate in Congressman Tom Suozzi's annual roundtable discussion of issues surrounding the Navy-Grumman Plume in Bethpage, Long Island, NY. The Navy, NYSDEC, local government officials and PRPs also will participate in the discussion.

**Region 3****Hot Topics****United States Files Unopposed Motion for Entry of Consent Decree In The Matter of U.S. v Antero Resources Corp.**

- On May 17, 2019, the United States filed an Unopposed Motion for Entry of Consent Decree entered with Antero Resources Corporation (Antero). The Consent Decree resolves violations under Section 301 of the Clean Water Act, as a result of the unauthorized discharge of dredged and fill material into waters of the U.S. in violation of Section 404 of the CWA at Sites in Harrison, Doddridge and Tyler counties in West Virginia where Defendant has constructed well pads, compressor stations, impoundments, pipe crossings, access roads and other structures associated with Marcellus Shale natural gas extraction operations. Antero, a Delaware Corporation, holds 484,000 leasehold acres in the Marcellus Shale in West Virginia and Pennsylvania.
- The agreement settles violations at 32 Antero Sites, 15 of which were identified through self-audit. The unauthorized activities include: stream impoundments; filling wetlands and streams for compressor station pads; realigning and culverting stream reaches; failing to fully restore temporary impacts; and the deposit of dredged and fill material into wetlands via land clearing, grubbing, filling, rerouting and compacting and grading of jurisdictional waters and wetlands, impacting approximately 19,549 linear feet of streams and 4.145 acres of wetlands. As part of the settlement, Antero has agreed to pay a civil penalty of \$3.15 million, perform restoration work at sites that can be restored, and perform mitigation work at a 50.5-acre permittee-responsible mitigation site known as the Bear Knob at a collective cost of approximately \$8 million. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection (WVDEP) is a party to the Consent Decree.

**Workshop for Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority's Online Water Quality Monitoring**

- EPA hosted a drinking water workshop for Pittsburgh Water & Sewer Authority's (PWSA) staff on May 17 focusing on optimizing PWSA's distribution system water quality monitoring efforts. PWSA indicated their interest in conducting more complex data analysis and suggesting additional areas for collaboration. A future site visit along with additional calls will provide PWSA with further evaluation and discussion of monitoring data.

### **Region 3 educates regulated community on the toxic chemical release reporting requirements**

- On May 7 and May 14, Region 3 employees delivered EPCRA Section 313 webinars to industry representatives to inform them of their toxic chemical release requirements under that law and to prepare them for the upcoming reporting due July 1, 2019, covering calendar year 2018. Attended by 120 people, the webinars covered: basic threshold determinations for reporting; reporting exemptions, the data elements of the toxic chemical release form, and electronic reporting through EPA's TRI-Me Web.

### **Region 3 conducts CWA 404 inspection in Somerset County, PA**

- On May 7, Region 3, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection, and Army Corps of Engineers, Pittsburgh District (Army Corps) staff conducted a CWA, Section 404 inspection after the Corps received a complaint regarding unauthorized stream and wetland impacts at a property in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. After identifying unauthorized impacts to a stream and wetland complex and issuing a Cease and Desist letter, the Corps forwarded information to EPA for further investigation as Somerset County is a "lead EPA area" under our MOU with the Corps.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

#### **Regional Administrator Cosmo Servidio has the following events and meetings scheduled:**

- May 29<sup>th</sup> - Hosting meeting with Army Corps Colonels whose districts overlap with Region 3, Philadelphia PA.
- May 30<sup>th</sup> - Monroe Energy Event

**Region 4**  
**Hot Topics:**

**North Carolina Startup, Shutdown and Malfunction (SSM) SIP Rule**

- **Key Message:** The proposal to withdraw the SSM SIP Call for NC was signed and a pre-publication version was posted to the EPA website on May 20, 2019 (30-day comment period once published). Regional air staff discussed proposal with state and local air agencies at the small group forum of the state and local air directors' meeting. A FOIA has been received regarding this action.

**Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

**State Commissioners Meeting**

- On May 29-30, 2019, Region 4 senior management will meet with the state environmental commissioners for our semi-annual meeting. Closed Press. Raleigh, NC.

**Blue Grass Army Depot Ribbon Cutting Event**

- Regional management and staff will be participating in a ribbon cutting event in Lexington, KY on May 29, 2019. This event is commemorating the start of chemical weapons stockpile destruction at the Blue Grass Army Depot.

**BEACH Act Grants Press Release**

- In coordination with HQs and other Regions, Region 4 will issue a press release on May 23, 2019 announcing the availability of grant funds under the BEACH Act program. Six states within the region will have access to approximately \$1.7M in grant funding. These grants help local authorities monitor beach water quality and notify the public of conditions that may be unsafe for swimming.

**The following Proposed Rules were published on May 20, 2019**

- Jefferson County, KY Definitions and Federally Enforceable District Origin Operating Permits
- TN Volatile Organic Compounds Definition Rule Revision for Chattanooga
- NC Revision to I/M Program and Update to Chattanooga Maintenance Plan – 2008 Ozone NAAQS

**The Final Rule for the GA Permit Exemption for Fire Fighting Equipment was published on May 21, 2019.**

- Paducah Formal Dispute Resolution for the C-400 Removal Notification SEC level dispute – June 14, 2019
- Paducah Formal Dispute Resolution for the Engineering Evaluation/Cost Analysis SEC level dispute – June 14, 2019



## Region 5

### Hot Topics:

#### **Trace Levels of Radioactive Contamination Found in School Near DOE's Portsmouth, Ohio, Plant**

- Key Message: A local middle school in Piketon, Ohio, was recently closed for the remainder of the school year due to fears of low levels of radiation contamination affecting the school from the nearby Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which is managed by the Department of Energy.
- Although Region 5 Superfund does not have an oversight role, EPA HQ and the region oversee other environmental programs (e.g., TSCA Federal Facilities Agreement) which may overlap with ongoing CERCLA actions led by DOE. A review of the January 2019 environmental monitoring report (based on 2017 data) shows the highest levels of radiation detections in ambient air are 1,000 times lower than EPA's NESHAP limits and 10,000 lower than DOE dose limits. Region 5 Superfund has offered assistance to both DOE and the state.
- U.S. DOE Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant was a uranium enrichment facility that supported the nation's nuclear weapons program from 1954 to 2001 and is in the process of decontamination and decommissioning, which includes environmental investigation and cleanup. The facility is not on the National Priorities List; the investigation and cleanup at the facility are being managed by DOE and overseen by the state of Ohio.

#### **OIG Briefed Regional Management on May 8 Amphenol Public Meeting**

- Key Message: On May 22, OIG led a conference call with Region 5 and HQ staff to share what they learned from their investigation into the effectiveness of risk communications at the Amphenol/Franklin Power Products RCRA corrective action site in Franklin, Ind.
- The OIG's May 8 public meeting was one of as many as four listening sessions the OIG is holding across the country to facilitate citizen feedback. As part of the Region's ongoing public outreach effort at the site, a June 5 public meeting is scheduled. Region 5 has already begun implementing several steps in response to concerns raised at the May 8 meeting.

## **Michigan's New Lead and Copper Rule Will Result in More Lead Exceedances**

- Key Message: In June 2018, MDEQ promulgated a state-specific lead and copper rule containing a more stringent sampling protocol than the federal rule.
- The new sampling protocol collects water deeper in the system, closer to the lead service line, which may result in higher lead concentrations. The Region is coordinating with the state in preparation for the high likelihood that many systems will exceed the lead action level. The Region has also offered technical assistance.

## **Keweenaw Bay Indian Community's Water Quality Standards and Clean Air Act Applications for Treatment as a State**

- Key Message: Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy requested an extension to submit comments on KBIC's applications and Region 5 plans to grant the extension to June 21.
- Region 5 is currently accepting comments on the tribe's applications, and the current comment period for the water quality standards application closes May 23. The tribe had previously inquired about the status of its application. Extending the comment period will add time to the overall process.

## **S.H. Bell Chicago Submitted Monitoring Data for the Month of March 2019**

- Key Message: The 12-month rolling average manganese concentration in the ambient air at the S.H. Bell facility is  $0.109 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , well below ATSDR's health threshold of  $0.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . EPA continues to engage S.H. Bell in settlement negotiations.
- On Aug. 7, 2017, EPA issued a Notice of Violation that alleged the S.H. Bell facility was emitting airborne manganese at levels that violate the Illinois State Implementation Plan, based on ambient air monitoring data of respirable particulate matter ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) and metals, including manganese. S.H. Bell is located in southeast Chicago, which is an environmental justice community. Members of the Illinois congressional delegation have been very interested in this site and other manganese emitters on Chicago's southeast side.

## **Watco Port and Terminal Services Submitted Monitoring Data for the Month of April 2019**

- **Key Message:** The long-term average manganese concentration in the ambient air at the Watco facility is  $0.330 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , which is only slightly above ATSDR's health threshold of  $0.3 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ . The levels are generally decreasing.
- On Dec. 18, 2018, EPA issued a Notice of Violation that alleged the Watco facility was emitting airborne manganese at levels that violate the Illinois State Implementation Plan, based on ambient air monitoring data of respirable particulate matter ( $\text{PM}_{10}$ ) and metals, including manganese. Watco is located in southeast Chicago, an environmental justice community.

## **EPA to Announce Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Request for Applications on May 28**

- **Key Message:** EPA expects to award a total of approximately \$14 million for about 30 projects in five categories addressing agricultural nutrients and stormwater runoff. The announcement will be made by RA Cathy Stepp and AA Dave Ross.
- This year, EPA is including a category to provide funding for innovative water quality trading projects. Approximately \$1.5 million is available for up to four projects in this category which promotes cost-effective and market-based approaches to reducing phosphorus.
- Another \$12.5 million is available to fund projects that target riparian restoration to reduce runoff to the Maumee River, green infrastructure to reduce stormwater runoff, manure management to reduce nutrient runoff from farms, and accelerating adoption of nutrient management through farmer-led outreach and education.

## **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

### **Glenview Naval Air Station Federal Reuse Awards Ceremony on May 29**

- **Key Message:** The Village of Glenview and the Glenview Naval Air Station team will be presented with the "National Federal Facility Excellence in Site Reuse" award for the Non-NPL base realignment and closure category.
- RA Stepp will present the award to the village and the team at an awards ceremony. After closure of the former Glenview Naval Air Station in 1995, the BRAC Cleanup Team partnered with the community and numerous agencies to expedite the cleanup and redevelopment of the 1,121-acre site. Once complete, the site will be home to a Metra commuter station, over 2,300 of residential units, two million square feet of office and retail space, over 400 acres of green space, a community center, post office, police station, fire station, middle school, and public safety training academy.

**EPA to Host May 29 Sterigenics Public Meeting in Willowbrook, Ill.**

- Key Message: EPA and other agency staff will provide updates and results from the recent health and environmental studies on the Willowbrook Sterigenics facility. RA Cathy Stepp and AA Bill Wehrum will be participating along with Illinois EPA Director John Kim and several other state and local officials.
- In addition to Sterigenics, EPA and Illinois EPA have been coordinating on multiple EtO related matters. On May 20, Region 5 and Illinois EPA met with public officials from Lake County to provide updates regarding the Medline and Vantage facilities, as well as the Lake County Health Department's monitoring plans. On May 23, Illinois EPA will host a public information session in Waukegan, Ill., about a draft construction permit for Medline to install additional control equipment. Illinois EPA intends to host a similar public information session in Gurnee, Ill., for Vantage next month.

**Region 5 to Host E15 Rule Announcement Event with Illinois Farm Bureau and Illinois Growers Association**

- Key Message: Region 5 has been coordinating with HQ, the Illinois Farm Bureau, and the Illinois Corn Growers Association in preparation for the May 30 event, which will be held on a farm in Mazon, Ill.

## **Region 6**

### **Hot Topics**

#### **Mosaic Fertilizer LLC, St. James, Louisiana**

- On May 17, EPA issued an information request under the Clean Water Act to impose monitoring and reporting requirements on Mosaic Uncle Sam for any discharge of process waste water that might occur in response to chronic or catastrophic rainfall in the next 4 to 6 months. Mosaic acknowledged receipt of the information request on May 20 but was not prepared to respond to it. The information request requires a response by May 31.

#### **Bird Creek Settlement, Osage County, Oklahoma**

- EPA approved the operators plan to monitor the TDS/temperature/conductivity at two locations in Bird Creek and its unnamed tributary. Surface water monitoring will be conducted by the operators for 18 months to confirm cessation of the release is maintained under the new operating conditions. The final version of the settlement document is being reviewed by the operators and EPA in anticipation of reaching an agreement by June.

#### **Texas Title V Petition Resolution Letter, Texas**

- Region 6 response TCEQ's June 2018 letter and subsequent discussions on how to resolve long-term EPA objections to Texas Title V air permits is undergoing final review. The current draft outlines where EPA agrees or proposes a different resolution of an issue.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

#### **Houston Area Ozone Exceptional Events, Texas**

- By May 24, Region 6 intends to act on TCEQ's initial notification of potential exceptional events for ozone on July 26 and 27 and August 23 and 24, 2018, in the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria Area.

#### **Albuquerque 2nd Set of Air Permit SIP Revisions, New Mexico**

- By May 30, Region 6 intends to propose approval on second set of pending air permits related SIP revisions from Albuquerque/Bernalillo County on changes to the their NSR rules to exempt gasoline dispensing facilities and emergency RICE engines from permitting.

## **Anti-Tampering and LIRAP SIP, Texas**

- By May 30, Region 6 anticipated final action on direct final and proposed rules to approve Texas SIP revisions that remove vehicle anti-tampering requirements and the Low- Income Repair Assistance Program (LIRAP) for certain Early Action Compact counties (limited to Travis and Williamson counties).

## **DFW 2008 Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan, Texas**

- By June 7, decision by HQ to finalize action to bump up the DFW area from moderate to serious for the 2008 Ozone NAAQS. TCEQ provided both oral and written comments requesting that EPA delay the required serious SIP revision submission date from 12 months to 18 months.

## **Houston/Galveston/Brazoria 2008 Ozone Attainment, Texas**

- By June 7, decision by HQ to finalize action to reclassify the HGB area from moderate to serious under the 2008 ozone NAAQS. TCEQ provided comments and asked for additional time to submit the serious area SIP revision, and also asked that EPA delay finalization of the bump up to allow consideration of potential exceptional events during 2018, which if approved, the area would be meeting the 2008 ozone NAAQS.

## **Oklahoma Annual Update, Oklahoma**

- By June 18, Region 6 anticipates final approval of miscellaneous revisions to the Oklahoma SIP regulations. The Region received adverse comments on the proposal and is working through the responses with OGC.
- **May 29**            **TCEQ/EPA Leadership Retreat Austin, Texas**
- **May 30**            **White Energy Facility Tour, Lubbock, Texas**
- **June 5**            **National Brownfields Competition Announcement, Oklahoma City, OK**
- **June 5**            **Offshore Operators Committee Meeting, Houston, Texas**

**Region 7**  
**Hot Topics:**

**Mercury Response in Osawatomie, Kansas**

- Key Message: EPA Region 7 On Scene Coordinators responded to assist with clean-up of a mercury spill at a residence in Osawatomie, Kansas on May 14.
- Last week EPA was notified by the Kansas State Fire Marshal of a mercury spill which exceeded state capabilities to conduct a clean-up.
- On May 14, two EPA OSCs responded and conducted an initial assessment and provided technical assistance to the responsible party with the clean-up of the elemental mercury.
- EPA plans to conduct confirmation sampling after the remaining remediation activities are completed by the responsible party.

**Record of Decision Issued for 57<sup>th</sup> & North Broadway Superfund Site**

- Key Message: On May 17, EPA issued its Record of Decision for Operable Unit 3, contaminated soil and groundwater, at the 57<sup>th</sup> and North Broadway Superfund Site in Wichita, Kansas.
- The Selected Remedy for OU3 of the 57<sup>th</sup> and North Broadway Site will address the groundwater plume of volatile organic compounds and 1,4-dioxane, as well as two areas of contaminated soils identified in the northern portion of the site.
- The remedy includes contaminated groundwater extraction and treatment, in situ chemical oxidation of the upgradient groundwater contaminant plume, soil excavation and offsite disposal, institutional controls, removal of the former soil vapor extraction system at the Midland Refinery, and maintenance of any vapor mitigation systems, if installed.
- The estimated cost of the remedy is \$5,874,000. This is a fund lead site, meaning EPA must fund 90% of the remedy and the state must fund 10%. The state of Kansas, represented by the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, concurred with this Selected Remedy.

## **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

### **National News Release: E15 Final Rule Announcement and Region 7 RA joins event at Elite Octane to discuss the E15 Final Rule Announcement**

- Key Message: On May 30, the E15 Final Rule Announcement will be released. On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the RA will discuss the Final Rule with Elite Octane in Atlantic, Iowa at their grand opening.
- Region 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford will join Elite Octane in Atlantic, Iowa for a combined Grand Opening ceremony and a news conference announcing the final EPA decision on the E-15 proposed rule.
- Those in attendance will include regional stakeholders in the E-15 community, state partners, local media, and EPA Region 7 staff. Currently, the facility is expecting up to 300 attendees.
- Region 7 Administrator Jim Gulliford will announce EPA's final decision on the E-15 proposed rule to attendees during the grand opening of the Elite Octane Ethanol Plant in Atlantic, Iowa. Additional speakers during the ceremony will likely include Elite Octane President Nick Bowdish, Fagen Inc. (the facility's construction supervisor), City Mayor David Jones, Senator Joni Ernst, Lt. Governor Adam Greg, and Governor Kim Reynolds.



## **Region 8**

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **Uintah and Ouray (Utah) Ozone Non-Attainment**

- The Region is relying on various regulatory actions to ultimately define the regulatory framework that will continue to support oil and gas development in the Uintah Basin and protect public health and the environment. To support the final National FIP Amendment we have an urgent need to publish the proposed reservation specific FIP for oil and gas sources on the Uintah and Ouray Reservation. The draft proposed FIP has been transmitted to OMB and we are requesting OAR assistance in working with OMB to expedite their review.
- On May 18, 2019, the Acting Regional Administrator signed an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking soliciting feedback on possible approaches to establishing a voluntary emission reduction credit bank for ozone precursors, specifically volatile organic compounds and nitrogen oxides, that would be applicable to stationary sources within the Uintah and Ouray Indian Reservation in eastern Utah. The notice will be published in the Federal Register on May 24, 2019, which will begin a 45-day comment period.

#### **Denver Ozone Attainment Determination**

- By May 27, 2019, DOJ plans to file on EPA's behalf the agency's answer in *WildEarth Guardians v. Wheeler*, Civ. Act. No. 1:19-cv-00897- JLK (D. Colo.) Guardians sued to compel EPA to make a final determination of whether the Denver Metro-North Front Range Area attained by its July 20, 2018 moderate area attainment deadline for the 2008 ozone NAAQS. By law, EPA was required to make this determination within 6 months of the attainment deadline. Areas that fail to attain by the attainment deadline are required to be reclassified ("bumped up"), unless they request a 1-year extension of the attainment deadline and meet the statutory and regulatory requirements for such extension. Colorado had requested a 1-year extension for the Denver area, and in a November 14, 2018 federal register notice EPA proposed to grant that extension. Subsequently, however, Colorado contacted Region 8 to withdraw the request for a 1-year extension. OAQPS, OGC, and the Regions are currently working on the final determinations of attainment and bump-ups for all moderate 2008 ozone areas, including Denver.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

- No reports submitted.

## **Region 9**

### **Hot Topics:**

- Region 9 marked the one-year work anniversary of Regional Administrator Mike Stoker, who this week hosted the Regional Tribal Operations Committee meeting in San Francisco. The full three-day agenda included meetings with elected leaders, a day of tribal-only sessions, and many program-specific workshops.
- South Coast (CA) Clean Air Act: RA Stoker signed a notice proposing to approve California's SIP for the South Coast (LA area) for the 2008 ozone standard, which includes updates to plans for the 1979 and 1997 ozone standards. Although air quality has improved by 40% over the past two decades, the area remains "extreme" for ozone, with pollution dominated by trucks, cars, and other mobile sources.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

- Agriculture: Ag Liaison Amy Miller addressed the large gathering of California ag commissioners in Monterey and will join the Regional Administrator in Arizona next week for meetings with the Arizona Dept. of Agriculture, the Arizona Farm Bureau, and the Arizona Dept. of Environmental Quality.
- Tribes: RA Mike Stoker will meet with the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community on May 28 and the Ak-Chin Indian Community on May 30.
- Navajo Nation: RA Mike Stoker will discuss with Arizona Congressman Tom O'Halleran our progress in Abandoned Uranium Mine cleanup.
- WIFIA: EPA is holding a WIFIA workshop in Phoenix May 23 to encourage participation in the third funding round.

**Region 10**  
**Hot Topics:**

**Finding of Air Quality Concern by Federal Highways and Federal Transit Administrations (WA)**

- Region 10 has learned that EPA, the Federal Highway Administration, and the Federal Transit Administration have found that the State Route 395 expansion north of Spokane, Washington is a project of “air quality concern” due to the scope of the project (the expansion will be used by a significant number of diesel vehicles). This finding triggers a project level “hot-spot” analysis for particulate matter required under the Transportation Conformity Rule. This will be the first such analysis required in Region 10 since this requirement went in to effect in 2010. Federal agencies will continue to provide assistance where possible: the EPA will continue to work with Washington State Department of Transportation in an attempt to reduce regulatory burden, and the Federal Highway Administration will provide assistance on the technical modeling. It is possible that elected officials in the Spokane area will contact their Congressional representatives about the need for this analysis.

**Invitation for Government-to-Government Consultation re: Withdrawing Federal Human Health Criteria for Washington**

- On May 21, Region 10 invited affected tribes to consult with EPA on our proposal to withdraw the federal rule that promulgated human health water quality criteria for Washington. On May 10, EPA reversed its 2016 CWA partial disapproval of Washington's HHC (excluding arsenic) and instead approved those criteria. The current federally promulgated water quality standards for Washington will remain in effect until EPA completes the process to withdraw these standards.

## **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

### **EPA Region 10 Sponsors Smoke Management Meeting in Seattle**

- May 29 and 30, Region 10 is hosting a Smoke Management Meeting to promote, “Smoke Ready Communities.” Air quality, public health, and land management professionals from federal, tribal, and state agencies will participate in the meeting at the EPA Region 10 Seattle office. For more than 10 years, this annual meeting has provided a forum where professionals can work together to address wildfire air quality response needs and improve smoke management from prescribed fire and agricultural burning. Wildfire frequency, duration, and severity continues to increase presenting new challenges to forest management and the protection of public health/air quality. Goals of the meeting include improving health messaging during wildfire events and ensuring that air quality and public health is protected even as the use of prescribed fire increases to treat fuels and reduce wildfire risk. Updates to the Washington, Oregon and Idaho Smoke Management Plan will be presented along with a look at the upcoming wildfire season.

## Office of Air and Radiation

### Hot Topics:

#### Tracking SIP Actions:

- Total Number of SIPs submitted to Regions in FY 2019: 198
- Total Number of SIP Submittals with Final Action taken by the Regions in FY 2019: 187
- Total Number of Pending SIPs: 778

#### Packages for Signature:

- Revision to Appendix P to 40 CFR Part 51, Concerning Minimum Emission Reporting Requirements in SIPs
- Extension of Start Date for Revised Photochemical Assessment Monitoring Stations

#### Packages at (or soon to be at) OMB for Review:

- PM2.5 Precursor Demonstration Guidance
- Reclassification of Major Sources as Area Sources Under Section 112 of the Clean Air Act (Proposed Rule)
- Vehicle Test Procedure Adjustments for Tier 3 Test Fuel (Proposed Rule)
- Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) and Nonattainment New Source Review (NSR): Project Emissions Accounting (Proposed Rule)
- 2020 Ozone Depleting Substances Phaseout Rule (Proposed Rule)
- Amendments Related to Marine Diesel Engine Emission Standards (Proposed Rule)
- ACE (Final Rule)
- RFS: Standards for 2020 and Biomass-Based Diesel Volume for 2021, Response to the Remand of the 2016 Standards, and Other Changes (Proposed Rule)
- Exceptional Events Guidance: Prescribed Fire on Wildland that May Influence Ozone and Particulate Matter Concentrations
- RFS Reset (Proposed Rule)
- Integrated Iron and Steel RTR (Proposed Rule) – in OP
- Modifications to Fuel Regulations to Provide Flexibility for E15; Modifications to RFS RIN Market Regulations – going to OMB by the end of the week

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- No reports submitted.

## Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention

### Hot Topics:

#### Rulemakings at OMB

- Regulation of Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals Under TSCA Section 6(h), NPRM
- Review of the Dust-Lead Hazard Standards and the Definition of Lead-Based Paint, Final Rule
- Ag WPS Revision to Application Exclusion Zone (AEZ) Requirements, NPRM

#### Rules/Guidance Out for Public Comment

- ANPRM: Commercial Paint and Coating Removal Training, Certification and Limited Access Program: Methylene Chloride: closes May 28
- Initiation of Prioritization Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) [20 high/20 low]: closes June 19
- TSCA Section 8 (a) Chemical Data Reporting Revisions: closes June 24
- Procedures for Review of CBI Claims for the Identity of Chemicals on the TSCA Inventory: closes June 24
- Draft Guidance for Plant Regulators, Including Plant Biostimulants: closes June 28
- Draft Revised Method for National Level Endangered Species Risk Assessment Process for Biological Evaluations of Pesticides: closes July 1

#### Past Events

- **American Bar Association Meeting** - On May 21, DAA Erik Baptist gave the keynote address at the American Bar Association's Section on Environment, Energy and Resources/CropLife America meeting on "New Developments in Pesticide Law & Policy."

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

#### Risk Evaluations Proceeding Under New TSCA

- OCSPP expects to send two draft risk evaluations into inter/intra-agency review the week of May 27<sup>th</sup>. These mark the second and third of the first ten chemicals to go into review under new TSCA, keeping with the deadlines of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act.

#### Lead Mapping Coordination Workshop

- OCSPP with AO and ORD will co-lead a May 29-30 lead mapping workshop to overview and improve understanding of EPA's various Lead (Pb) mapping approaches. Participants will explore how to improve interpretations and understanding and will discuss needs, options, and strategies for how best to contribute to the Federal Action Plan goal to "Generate data, maps, and mapping tools to identify high exposure communities or locations and disparities for prioritization efforts to reduce children's blood lead levels."

### **Maximum Residue Limits (MRL) Harmonization Workshop**

- OPP Director Rick Keigwin will present at the MRL Harmonization Workshop sponsored by the California Specialty Crops Council May 29-30 in San Francisco. Rick will provide updates on MRL issues, including the Codex meeting held in April.

### **Pediatrics Conference**

- On June 2<sup>nd</sup> AA Alexandra Dunn will address the Annual Meeting of the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit of the American Academy of Pediatrics, on TSCA and EPA's role in protecting public health.

**Office of the Chief Financial Officer****Hot Topics:**

- By a vote of 30-21, the House Appropriations Full Committee reported its FY 2020 budget bill to the House Floor on May 22.
- OCFO received the House Energy and Commerce Committee's Questions for the Record on May 20 and is assigning questions to the appropriate programs. OCFO continues to work with OCIR, OGC and the programs to prepare responses to the QFRs from the SAC and HAC.
- OCFO is preparing a letter for the Administrator's signature to respond to correspondence from the Governor of Montana regarding EPA's FY 2020 President's Budget request.

**Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

- On May 23, OCFO will submit to OMB for review the 11 strategic objective "dashboards" on results of EPA's 2019 strategic reviews/risk assessments and draft agenda for June 25 OMB/EPA Strategic Review. Materials reflect decision from Acting Deputy Administrator/Chief of Operations on designations of four strategic objectives (2.1, 2.2, 3.2, 3.5) as Focus Areas for Improvement based on challenges to achieve long-term performance goals in EPA's Strategic Plan.
- OCFO will provide to OMB on May 24 the EPA's response to the Cross-Agency Priority (CAP) 6, Shifting from Low Value to High Value Work. OCFO and the Office of Continuous Improvement identified examples of EPA actions to reduce burden and improve efficiency and effectiveness of operations for ADA/COO review. EPA's input may potentially be available to the public on [www.performance.gov](http://www.performance.gov) in the future.
- OCFO will brief the ADA/COO on May 31 on materials for FY 2019 Q2 Administrator's Quarterly Performance Review on June 6.
- On May 31, OCFO will submit to OMB FY 2018-2019 Q1/Q2 APG Action Plan updates, which incorporate minor comments received from OMB for publication on [www.performance.gov](http://www.performance.gov) on June 20.
- Final FY 2020-2021 National Program Guidances for OAR, OCSPP, OECA, OLEM, OW, OITA, and OCIR are due to OCFO on May 31. On June 7, final guidances will be published on EPA's National Program Guidance website, along with NPM responses to comments.
- As follow up to the May 9 submission of EPA's six FY 2020-2021 Agency Priority Goal areas, OMB has requested a call to discuss what EPA intends to measure for the two cross-cutting APGs—reducing PFAS risks to the public and reducing childhood lead exposures. OCFO is supporting the AO goal lead in engaging with key agency office contributors to develop measurement approaches for discussion with the CFO, ADA/COO, and Administrator over the next couple of weeks to prepare for OMB call.



**Office of the Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations**  
**Hot Topics:**

- No reports submitted.

**Upcoming Events**

- **May 28** – National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for perchlorate will be announced
- **May 28** – SEPW briefing on nutrient pollution efforts w/OW
- **May 29** – CRS briefing on CWA Section 304(a) criteria update process
- **June 3** (tent.) – Rep. Pelosi (CA) inquiry re Border Water Infrastructure Grant Program w/OW, R9, R6

## **Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance**

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **OECA Launches New Non-Compliance Tools to Identify Significant Non-Compliance**

- OECA launched two new tools that will help EPA and our state partners more easily identify facilities in Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Significant Non-Compliance. These data are valuable for EPA and the states to be better informed and will enhance collaboration when discussing strategies for reducing Significant Non-Compliance.

#### **New Database Allows the Public to Find EPA Certified Residential Wood Heaters**

- OECA has offered several webinars to stakeholders from trade associations, manufacturers, and state agencies to introduce a new searchable residential wood heaters database. The new database includes information, such as model names, heater types, associated emissions rates, efficiency, and heat output.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

- OECA will be announcing its National Compliance Initiatives for FY2020-2023 on or around June 4. They also will be incorporated into OECA's final National Program Guidance released by OCFO on June 7.

**Office of General Counsel****Hot Topics:**

- *Association of Irrigated Residents v. Wheeler*, No. 19-71223 (9th Cir. May 17, 2019). New Litigation: The Association of Irrigated Residents filed a petition for review in the 9th Circuit regarding EPA's March 25, 2019 action on a 2008 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the San Joaquin Valley ozone nonattainment area in California. The exact issues are uncertain until the petitioner's brief is filed August 5, but adverse comments on this SIP action raised issues including Reasonable Further Progress and emission inventories (addressing a novel question following the D.C. Circuit's decision in *South Coast Air Quality Management District v. EPA*, 882 F.3d 1138 (D.C. Cir. 2018) (*South Coast II*)) and contingency measures (addressing a novel question following the Ninth Circuit's decision in *Bahr v. EPA*, 836 F.3d 1218 (9th Cir. 2016)).
- New NOI: By letter dated May 15, 2019, Northwest Environmental Advocates (NWEA) provided notice of intent to sue EPA for an alleged failure to perform non-discretionary duties under Clean Water Act section 303(d)(2). The NOI is based on constructive submission of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) by the State of Washington as of the date of a Complaint filed by NWEA in 1991 (amended in 1994). The Complaint as amended, was resolved with a Consent Decree (now concluded) and a Settlement Agreement under which EPA would "backstop" the issuance of TMDLs by the state. NWEA also invokes the Settlement Agreement's dispute resolution provision.

**Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

- No reports submitted.

## **Office of International and Tribal Affairs**

### **Hot Topics:**

#### **CEC Food Loss and Waste Project**

- EPA (OITA, OLEM) represents the USG on the CEC Food Loss and Waste Measurement and Mitigation project, along with counterparts from Canada and Mexico. The CEC has launched the project which will produce two deliverables: (1) a practical guide and complementary technical report on food loss and waste measurement across the North American food supply chain; and (2) Food Matters Action Kit, a youth engagement tool that contains activities designed for youth across North America to prevent food waste in their homes and communities. Approval of this project will take place at the CEC Council Session on June 25th in Mexico City.

#### **Vietnam Marine Litter Project**

- OITA met with KCI Technologies, Inc, a Baltimore based company. to discuss their interest in a potential marine debris project in Vietnam. KCI has been implementing trash capture projects in Baltimore, New York, Los Angeles, Toronto, and Newport Beach. They are considering a request for proposals from the Benioff Ocean Initiative and The Coca-Cola Foundation committing \$3 million to support implementation of a river plastic waste intervention project in Vietnam. We shared information about EPA's environmental governance program in Vietnam and interest in helping Southeast Asian countries address marine litter.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

- **May 28** – OITA will be meeting with the Ocean Conservancy to discuss cooperation on marine litter in the G7, G20 and CEC.
- **May 29** – EPA (OITA, OECA, OW, and Region 8) will be meeting with the Ute Indian Tribe to discuss their drinking water system.
- **May 29-30** – OITA AA will be attending the North American Development Bank (NADB) Board Meeting in Juarez, Mexico.

## Office of the Land and Emergency Management

### Hot Topics:

- **Coal Combustion Residuals (CCR).** The CCR Phase 2 proposed rule package is with OMB for an expedited EO 12866 review.
- **Clean Air Act 112(r) Risk Management Program (RMP).** OLEM is following up on input from the briefing with the Administrator.
- **Ongoing major Superfund NPL sites.** We are working with Region 1 on Centredale, Region 2 on Matteo, Region 4 on Oak Ridge, and Region 10 on Portland Harbor and Hanford.
- **CERCLA 108(b) Financial Assurance (next three sectors).** The Industry 1 NPRM is scheduled to go to OP soon for approval to send to OMB. This rule has a court-deadline for signature of July 2, 2019.
- **PFAS.**
  - PFOA and PFOS contaminated groundwater guidance. The public comment period concludes on June 10, 2019.
  - Working on inclusion as “hazardous substances” under CERCLA.
- **E-Manifest.**

### Upcoming Major Decisions and Events

- **Surplus Property Roundtable.** On May 23, 2019, Peter Wright will provide remarks at this meeting in Bay City, MI.
- **Spring NPL update.** The proposed listings package is on track to be released shortly.
- **Environmental Workforce Development and Job Training (EWDJT).** The FY20 EWDJT grant guidelines have been published in grants.gov. The deadline for the submission of proposals is June 10, 2019.
- **Exemption for Air Releases from Animal Waste at Farms from EPCRA Final Rule.** OMB concluded its review and the signature package is with OP.
- **FY19 Brownfields Multipurpose, Assessment, Cleanup Grant Announcement.** We are on track for an announcement of the selection of the grants on June 5, totaling approximately \$55 million.

**Office of Mission Support**  
**Hot Topics:**

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Green Intern Program**

- The Green Intern Program announcements will be posted on USAJOBS by June 14, 2019 and will remain open until June 28. The positions will be posted at the GS-7 grade level with full promotion level to the GS-12. The announcements will include one for each region and one for headquarters. The certificates will be then issued to the respective locations where the interviews will be conducted. The first class of interns will join EPA on September 29, 2019.

**Termination of Suspension for Respondent in the Flint, MI Water Crisis**

- On May 16, 2019, the EPA Suspension and Debarment Official terminated the suspension of Daugherty Andrew Johnson, Utilities Director for the City of Flint, Michigan's Department of Public Works. Mr. Johnson's suspension was terminated due to dismissal of the underlying criminal charges that constituted a cause for his suspension. A suspension is an immediate exclusion from receiving federal contracts and covered transactions to protect the public interest, pending completion of legal proceedings.

**EPA Moves AirNow Application to Cloud Environment**

- EPA is moving AirNow into the Azure cloud hosting environment to scale and host the application during peak wildfire season. Peak usage was recorded during the California wildfires last fall with more than 21,000 active users. AirNow.gov consistently ranks as one of the top 10 most-visited websites across the federal government and was the second most-visited site for a seven-day period during the California wildfires, with a site visit count of 13,399,810. AirNow provides air quality data during wildfires and other natural disasters which is critical to the health and safety of the public.

**Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

**2019 Use or Lose Restoration Guidance Deadline Extended to May 31, 2019**

- The deadline for submitting use or lose restoration requests and supporting documentation to the Human Resources Shared Service Centers is May 31, 2019. A memorandum, distributed to EPA senior managers and the human resources community on March 18, 2019, provided the policy and procedures for leave restoration as a result of the federal government shutdown exigency.

## 2019 Employee Viewpoint Survey Launch

- On May 16th, the U.S. Office of Personnel Management launched the 2019 Employee Viewpoint Survey. Eligible employees should have received an email from [EVEP@opm.gov](mailto:EVEP@opm.gov) with the subject line: "The 2019 OPM FEVS: Empowering Employees. Inspiring Change." The EVS will be available for employees to complete through June 27, 2019.

**Office of Policy****Hot Topics:****Environmental Economics Research**

- On May 29-31, National Center for Environmental Economics staff will present research on modeling and analytic techniques for benefit and cost estimation of environmental regulation at the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists 2019 Summer Conference in Lake Tahoe, Nevada.

**CAFTA-DR Regional Policy Dialogue**

- On May 29-30, Office of Federal Activities staff will join NGOs, government, and private sector representatives in Guatemala City, Guatemala to discuss public comments received on the guidelines on the Public Participation in the Environmental Assessment Process.

<b>Active Interagency Reviews from OMB</b>	
<b>Subject</b>	<b>OMB Due Date</b>
DOT/PHMSA NPRM: Hazardous Materials: Liquefied Natural Gas by Rail	05/24/2019
DOI/BLM NPRM: Non-Energy Solid Leasable Minerals Royalty Rate Reduction Process	05/28/2019
USDA/APHIS NPRM (Pass-back): Movement of Certain Genetically Engineered Organisms, aka Part 340	05/28/2019
GSA Interim Rule: Federal Travel Regulation; Taxes on Relocation Expenses, Relocation Expense Reimbursement	05/29/2019
GSA NPRM: Federal Management Regulation (FMR): Utility Services	05/29/2019
DOT/PHMSA FRM: Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: MAOP Reconfirmation, Expansion of Assessment Requirements, and Other Related Amendments	06/12/2019
HHS/CDC Notice (Pass-back): Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention: Blood Lead Reference Value Update	N/A
DoD/ACE NPRM (Pass-back): Natural Disaster Procedures: Preparedness, Response, and Recovery Activities of the Corps of Engineers	N/A



Documents Sent to the OFR from May 15-23, 2019		
FRL #	Title	Date Sent to FR
9994-40-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Commercial Fuel Oil Sulfur Limits for Combustion Units in Philadelphia County	5-23-2019
9994-42-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Revision to the Regulatory Definition of a Volatile Organic Compound	5-23-2019
9994-44-OW	Notice of a Public Meeting and Webinar: Development of the Fifth Proposed Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) for Public Water Systems	5-23-2019
9994-45-OAR	Allocations of Cross-State Air Pollution Rule Allowances from New Unit Set-Asides for 2019 Control Periods	5-23-2019
9994-41-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Removal of Unnecessary Electric Arc Furnace Regulation and References to the Electric Arc Furnace Regulation	5-23-2019
9993-48-OCSP	Clofentezine; Pesticide Tolerances	5-22-2019
9994-23-OW	Final Modification to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activities	5-22-2019
9994-03-ORD	Ambient Air Monitoring Reference and Equivalent Methods; Designation of One New Reference Method	5-22-2019
9994-09-OCSP	Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee; Request for Nominations to the Pesticide Program Dialogue Committee 2019	5-22-2019
9994-24-ORD	Availability of the Updated Problem Formulation and Protocol for the Inorganic Arsenic IRIS Assessment	5-22-2019
9993-79-Region 6	Air Plan Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plan, Louisiana; Attainment Demonstration for the St. Bernard Parish 2010 SO <sub>2</sub> Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard Nonattainment Area	5-21-2019

9993-84-Region 1	Air Plan Approval; Massachusetts; Nonattainment New Source Review Program Revisions; Infrastructure Provisions for National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for the 2008 8-Hour Ozone Standard	5-21-2019
9993-37-OCSP	Registration Review Proposed Interim Decisions for Several Pesticides; Notice of Availability	5-21-2019
9993-65-OMS	Emission Guidelines for Large Municipal Waste Combustors Constructed on or Before September 20, 1994) (Renewal)/ICR 1847.08	5-21-2019
9993-81-OMS	NSPS for Small Municipal Waste Combustors (Renewal)/ICR 1900.07	5-21-2019
9993-82-OAR	Notice of Final Approval for an Alternative Means of Emission Limitation at Shell Oil Products U.S. Martinez Refinery	5-21-2019
9993-99-OAR	Meeting of the Mobile Sources Technical Review Subcommittee	5-21-2019
9994-11-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Illinois; Redesignation of the Illinois Portion of the St. Louis, MO-IL Area to Attainment of the 1997 Annual Standard for Fine Particulate Matter	5-21-2019
9994-14-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Georgia; Miscellaneous Revisions	5-21-2019
9994-05-Region 4	Ward Transformer Superfund Site Raleigh, North Carolina Notice of Settlement	5-21-2019
9994-30-OMS	NSPS for Grain Elevators (Renewal)/ICR 1130.12	5-21-2019
9994-13-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; South Carolina; 2008 8-hour Ozone Interstate Transport	5-21-2019
9994-27-Region 10	Air Plan Approval; ID: Infrastructure Requirements for the 2015 Ozone Standard; Reopening of Comment Period	5-21-2019
9991-98-Region 8	Federal Implementation Plan to Establish a Bank for Ozone Precursor Emission Reduction Credits from Existing Sources on Indian Country Lands within the Uinta Basin Ozone Nonattainment Area	5-20-2019
9992-69-OCSP	Fluensulfone; Pesticide Tolerances	5-20-2019
9993-66-Region 8	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Montana; Missoula PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request	5-20-2019

9993-62-OA	Request for Nominations of Candidates to the EPA's Science Advisory Board (SAB) and SAB Standing Committees	5-20-2019
9993-76-Region 2	Clean Air Act Operating Permit Program; Petitions on State Operating Permit for Hyland Landfill	5-20-2019
9993-87-OMS	NESHAP for Miscellaneous Organic Chemical Manufacturing (Renewal)/ICR 1969.07	5-20-2019
9993-88-OMS	NSPS for Stationary Combustion Turbines (Renewal)/ICR .2177.07	5-20-2019
9993-94-OMS	NESHAP for Area Sources: Asphalt Processing and Asphalt Roofing Manufacturing (Renewal)/ICR 2352.05	5-20-2019
9994-12-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Revisions to Particulate Matter Rules	5-20-2019
9994-28-OMS	NESHAP for Chemical Preparations Industry (Renewal)/ICR 2356.05	5-20-2019
9990-75-OMS	Requirements for the Performance-Based Measurement System for Fuels (Renewal)/ICR 2459.03	5-17-2019
9992-25-OCSP	Innovate, Inc; Transfer of Data	5-17-2019
9992-66-OMS	Collection of Information on Anaerobic Digestion Facilities Processing Wasted Food to Support EPA's Sustainable Food Management Program (Revision)/ICR 2533.02	5-17-2019
9993-97-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; NC; Permitting Revisions	5-17-2019
9993-13-OMS	NSPS for Fossil Fuel Fired Steam Generating Units (Renewal)/ICR 1052.12	5-17-2019
9993-21-OMS	NSPS for Ammonium Sulfate Manufacturing Plants (Renewal)/ICR 1066.09	5-17-2019
9993-23-OMS	NSPS for Hospital/Medical/Infectious Waste Incinerators (Renewal)/ICR 1730.11	5-17-2019
9993-98-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; North Carolina: PSD Requirements for GHGs	5-17-2019
9994-10-Region 5	Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Tank Rules	5-17-2019
9993-90-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Kentucky: Jefferson County Process Operations	5-16-2019
9993-89-Region 4	Air Plan Approval; Georgia: Permit Exemption for Fire Fighting Equipment	5-16-2019

9993-39-OCSP	Product Cancellation Order for Certain Pesticide Registrations	5-16-2019
9993-80-OA	Announcement of the Board of Directors for the National Environmental Education Foundation	5-16-2019
9993-17-Region 7	National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; National Priorities List: Partial Deletion of the Omaha Lead Superfund Site	5-16-2019
9994-00-OAR	Proposed Information Collection Request; Comment Request; Registration of Fuels and Fuel Additives - Health-Effects Research Requirements for Manufacturers; EPA ICR No. 1696.10, OMB Control No. 2060-0297	5-16-2019
9991-41-Region 8	Colorado: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Codification	5-15-2019
9991-42-Region 8	Colorado: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions and Codification	5-15-2019
9992-38-OCSP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Active Ingredients	5-15-2019
9992-39-OCSP	Pesticide Product Registration; Receipt of Applications for New Uses	5-15-2019
9992-90-OCSP	Lambda-Cyhalothrin; Receipt of Application for Emergency Exemption, Solicitation of Public Comment	5-15-2019
9993-69-Region 2	Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York; Cross-State Air Pollution Rule; NOx Ozone Season Group 2, NOx Annual, and SO2 Group 1 Trading Programs	5-15-2019
9993-24-OCSP	Product Cancellation Order for Certain Pesticide Registrations	5-15-2019
9993-86-OMS	Part B Permit Application, Permit Modifications, and Special Permits (Renewal)/ICR 1573.15	5-15-2019
9993-68-Region 2	Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New York; Cross-State Air Pollution Rule; NOx Ozone Season Group 2 , NOx Annual and SO2 Group 1 Trading Programs	5-15-2019
9993-70-Region 2	Approval of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Jersey; Determination of Attainment for the 1971 Sulfur Dioxide National Ambient Air Quality Standard; Warren County Nonattainment Area	5-15-2019

9993-95-Region 3	Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; District of Columbia; Approval of the Redesignation Request for the Washington, DC-MD-VA 2008 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard Nonattainment Area	5-15-2019
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**Office of Research and Development****Hot Topics:**

- Next week EPA Region 4 and State environmental leaders will meet with ORD at the EPA RTP facility on May 29-30. ORD will provide an update on the first day, along with regional and division updates and a state roundtable discussion. The second day will begin with a tour of the RTP facility and an ORD laboratory tour, including stops related to PFAS, harmful algal blooms and wildfires, followed by agenda topics including water quality trading and data sharing during disasters. This meeting will serve as an opportunity for EPA to learn more about the environmental challenges Region 4 Southeastern states are facing and receive feedback on how our research, methods and science-based tools could more effectively support states' efforts to protect the environment and public health.

**Cyanobacteria Assessment Network (CyAN) Mobile Application Patent Issued**

- On May, 14, 2019, a U.S. Patent was issued to EPA for the [CyAN](#) mobile application. CyAN is a multi-agency project (EPA, NASA, NOAA, and USGS) to develop an early warning indicator system using historical and current satellite data to detect algal blooms in U.S. freshwater systems. This research supports federal, state, and local partners in their monitoring efforts to assess water quality to protect aquatic and human health. The CyAN mobile application will provide water quality managers with a user-friendly platform for accessing satellite data to allow fast, efficient, initial assessments across lakes and reservoirs.

**Office of Water Award for Improving National Lakes Assessment (NLA) Data Collection**

- A team including an ORD scientist has received the Office of Water's 2017 Achievement in Science and Technology Award for reducing the processing time for lake monitoring data from months to minutes. ORD's member of the NLA Field Logistics Team used applications and iPads to better capture the monitoring data and quickly provide it to partners and collaborators.

**ORD Partnership with Tyson Foods**

- ORD in collaboration with the Office of Wastewater Management (OWM) signed a Materials Cooperative Research and Development Agreement with Tyson Foods on May 20 to study the potential for water reuse in protein processing operations. Tyson, ORD, and OWM hope to collaborate with USDA on risk assessment and treatment options for applying fit-for-purpose water reuse in Tyson's operations.

**Inorganic Arsenic Protocol.**

- On May 29<sup>th</sup>, the IRIS Program will release the "Updated Problem Formulation and Protocol for Inorganic Arsenic IRIS Assessment" for a 30-day public comment period.

## **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

### **Scientific Integrity Annual Employee Conversation**

- On June 6, the Scientific Integrity Program will host its Agency-wide Annual Employee Conversation with the Scientific Integrity Official at 1:00 pm eastern time.

### **EPA Workshop on Lead Mapping Coordination**

- ORD, OCSPP and the Administrator's Office are co-leading a 1.5-day EPA workshop, from May 29-30, on Lead (Pb) Mapping Coordination. Alex Dunn (OSCPP) and Bruce Rodan (ORD) will provide a welcome and opening remarks. The outcomes will identify and strengthen EPA's capabilities to contribute to Federal Action Plan Goal 4 (research), Action 2: "Generate data, maps, and mapping tools to identify high exposure communities or locations and disparities for prioritization efforts to reduce children's blood lead levels." The workshop goal is to share information and understand the different EPA Lead (Pb) mapping approaches, to develop a coordinated EPA vision related to EPA's statutory and programmatic requirements; lay the groundwork for collaboration with federal partners (e.g., Federal Lead Action Plan); and develop a coordinated EPA message for external partners. We expect participation from all regional offices and relevant program offices.

### **PFAS Plant Visit, Fayetteville, NC**

- On May 30, ORD, OECA and the North Carolina DEQ will visit the Chemours Fayetteville plant. The primary objective for the visit is to observe and better understand the various processes at the plant and how they potentially translate into air emissions. It is also an opportunity to learn more about the plant's existing emission control strategies and technologies. The air permit modification package that Chemours submitted to NCDEQ for the planned thermal oxidizer indicates the installation will be complete and operational by the end of this year.

**Office of Water**  
**Hot Topics:****Proposed Perchlorate Rule**

- This week, the EPA is proposing a national primary drinking water regulation (NPDWR) for perchlorate and a health-based Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) public input on a range of options regarding the regulation of perchlorate in public drinking water systems. The Agency is also seeking comment on alternative MCL and MCLG values and on whether the EPA should withdraw the Agency's 2011 determination to regulate perchlorate instead of promulgating a final NPDWR and MCLG. This proposed regulation was completed in accordance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and in compliance with a consent decree requirement to propose by May 28.

**Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Request for Applications**

- On May 28, Region 5 and the Office of Water (OW) will jointly announce a request for applications (RFA) from eligible entities for grant projects funded by the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. The EPA expects to award approximately \$14 million for about 30 nonpoint source projects in five categories addressing agricultural nutrients and stormwater runoff. For the first time, the EPA will offer funding for projects in the category of water quality trading. The EPA's announcement will include a media call and press release.

**Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Guidance and Proposed Rulemaking**

- In accordance with E.O. 13868, *Promoting Energy Infrastructure and Economic Growth*, OW is preparing guidance to federal agencies, states, and tribes on Section 401 certification by June 10, as well as a proposed rule modernizing the water quality certification process in August. This week, the administrative docket closes for states and tribes to submit pre-proposal recommendations under the Agency's federalism and tribal consultation efforts. The last general outreach effort with tribes will be held this week at the Region 9 Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) meeting in San Francisco, CA.



### **Methods Update Rule**

- As early as next week, OW will transmit to OP the Methods Update Rule for the Administrator's signature. This rule will propose to approve additional analytical methods (i.e., test procedures) for measuring pollutants in wastewater. Regulated and regulatory entities use these methods to determine compliance with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits or other Clean Water Act monitoring requirements. EPA periodically updates the list of approved methods to reflect advancements in technology, refine quality assurance and quality control requirements, or provide entities with more choices of approved compliance monitoring methods.

### **Upcoming Major Decisions and Events**

#### **Vessel Incidental Discharge Act (VIDA) In-Person Listening Session**

- Next week, Deputy Assistant Administrator Lee Forsgren will give an opening welcome at a two-day VIDA listening session hosted by EPA and United States Coast Guard to provide a general overview of VIDA and a summary of regulatory considerations for specific incidental discharges, including an opportunity for public input. Open press.

#### **EPA Region 4 State Commissioners Meeting**

- Next week, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Anna Wildeman will attend Region 4's State Commissioners Meeting to discuss nutrients and water quality trading efforts. Closed press.

#### **2019 Aspen-Nicholas Water Forum**

- Next week, Assistant Administrator Dave Ross will give opening remarks for Session Four: Policy Innovations - technological and scientific advancements. Closed press.